Rail revenue from transporting vehicles

742. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of revenue earned by Railways from transporting vehicles by rail in 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(b) whether transportation of cars by rail has been discontinued;

(c) if so, the reasons therefore ?

(d) whether Government have any proposal to continue movement of vehicles alongwith other cargo trains, as the automobile companies are finding it difficult to move cars to long destinations in the country; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The figures of earnings for transporting vehicles are not maintained separately by the Railways.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Currently, transportation of vehicles by rail is done in rakes and not combined with other cargo.

Difficulties of handicapped persons in rail reservation

†743. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that handicapped persons have to face much difficulties while reserving a ticket even today;

(b) whether it is a fact that in spite of showing passes by the handicapped persons at Railway counters, they are not being provided reserved ticket; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to provide them more facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Handicapped persons are issued concessional

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

tickets without any difficulty on production of requisite certificate in proper form.

The following facilities have been extended from time to time for the physically handicapped persons:—

(i) At major Passenger Reservation System (PRS) locations, physically handicapped persons are dealt with on a separate counter.

(ii) A reservation quota of two sleeper class berths have been earmarked in all trains running on non-suburban sections for handicapped persons performing their journey on handicapped concessional ticket. The persons accompanying the handicapped person as escort is also alloted the berth out of this quota.

(iii) Instructions have also been issued that in the tickets issued through Computerised Passenger Reservation System, to extent feasible, one lower berth should be allotted to the handicapped person and the person accompanying the handicapped person as escort should be allotted middle/upper berths near the handicapped person subject to avilability of accommodation.

(iv) After departure of the train, if there are vacant lower berths available in the train, and if any physically handicapped person booked on the authority of handicapped concessional ticket, who has been allottted upper/middle berth, approaches for allotment of vacant lower berths, the Conductor/TrainTicket Examiner (TTE) has been authorised to allot the vacant lower berth to them making necessary entries in the chart.

(v) In suburban trains, separate accommodation for handicapped persons has been earmarked.

Pre-training facilities to Railway OBC employees

†744. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether departmental pre-training facilities are being provided to Railway employees of other backward classes for group 'B' examinations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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